

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 64

July 2017

No. 7



Calendar

Fri., June 23	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> in Penn Place lobby	Mon., Aug. 14	No Town Council meeting (probably)
Sat., June 24	Large item pickup	Thurs., Aug. 17	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., June 26	Art at Penn Place, new exhibit: photographs, Vickie Baily, till July 22 (see p 5); street cleaning (rain date June 27; see p 3)	Mon., Aug. 21	Art at Penn Place, new exhibit: Lucila San Jose, paintings, through Sept. 16 (see p 5)
Thurs., June 29	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Aug. 31	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Tues., July 4	4th of July activities (see p 4 & poster, p 8)	Mon., Sept. 4	Labor Day, no trash pickup
Thurs., July 6	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Sept. 7	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., July 8	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–12 pm	Fri., Sept. 8	Film Society, <i>Seymour: An Introduction</i> ; dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm
Sun., July 9	Meet-the-Artist reception, Vickie Baily, gardens at 4702 Waverly, 3–5 pm (if raining, held at Penn Place; see p 5)	Sat., Sept. 9	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–12 pm
Mon., July 10	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm	Mon., Sept. 11	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Sat., July 15	GIVES, Farmer's Market, 9 am–12 pm	Tues., Sept. 12	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm
Thurs., July 20	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., Sept. 16	GIVES, Farmer's Market, 9 am–12 pm; Porches and Patios, around town, 6 pm
Sun., July 23	Art at Penn Place, new exhibit opening, Nancy Altemus (till August 19), and Meet-the-Artist reception, Penn Place, 3–5 pm (see p 5)	Sun., Sept. 17	Art at Penn Place, opening and gala reception for Series 13, group show of participating artists, on exhibit till September 30 (see p 5); Newcomers Welcome, Town Hall
Thurs., Aug. 3	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Sept. 21	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Aug. 5	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–12 pm	Fri., Sept. 22	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at PO lobby
		Sat., Oct. 7	Large item pickup

Managerial Regulation

This was a long meeting, taken up primarily with the task of reviewing and eventually probably revising some of the town's regulations and ordinances.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 463 attended and asked smart questions.

Elements of this task are pretty straightforward: We need to give our election judges more

autonomy and clarity in terms of their duties. Only election judges should make decisions, for instance—not town staff. Judges need to be able to introduce provisional ballots when there's a question about someone's qualifications to vote; they need to decide later whether to count that vote.

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It would probably be a good idea if no fewer than 30 days before an election, judges published any new procedures that they’ve developed. These and other possible revisions of/additions to the town’s charter were discussed.

Mayor Benjamin pointed out that under state law we cannot pass a single resolution modifying the charter; we have to pass a resolution for each section that we want to modify. He went on to note that “our charter is both general and detailed. Ordinances are equivalent to laws passed by Congress. We also have regulations and procedures. We’re both cleaning up some pieces and making real changes. Piece by piece we’re looking at everything. For instance, we had an error in one of our ordinances having to do with changes to the budget. We fixed that.”

Hans Wegner discussed what’s likely to be the most important and tricky category of change: traffic ordinances. “We need to be able to put parking restrictions in quickly. At the moment we don’t have any enforcement authority having to do with parking violations, and so we felt that it was important to have more flexibility in the way we administer parking and related traffic regulations. We want to clarify the regulations and then empower the Town Manager to enforce them as he sees fit.”

Hans continued: “The question for the Council is: Do we as a Council think it’s wise and practical to make regulation an activity for the Town Manager? And do we feel we ought in fact to have the ability to enforce these regulations? Many in town feel enforcement isn’t something we should do. It’s not neighborly. But there are also people in town who ask why we don’t enforce parking regulations.”

More from Hans: “This is particularly a problem for people who are handicapped: people without handicapped stickers are parking in these spaces.” This is only one example, however; as more and more traffic enters and parks in our busy and popular town, we need to respond to increased violations. The Mayor pointed out that “there are streets where we have signs up but for which there are no ordinances.”

At this point, Councilmember Jane McClintock emphasized that any changes would be subject to oversight by the Town Council. And all proposed changes will be circulated to the public for discussion.

Jean Horan now asked the Council to consider the “downstream effect” of some of these proposed traffic regulation/administration/enforcement changes. “We do have people who park the wrong way: directly across from one another, at a bend in the road, and so forth. And for years we’ve heard that there is no authority to enforce anything. So this initiative is welcome. But as a taxpayer, I’d like to ask the Council whether I might have to pay for the cost of towing a vehicle,

or for legal costs if an offender wants to go to court. Garrett Parkers seem to like hiring legal counsel. Will all of this end up costing the town?”

Jane responded that if people contest tickets, it goes to the Montgomery County court system. “We are not in the business of providing judicial review here.”

The Mayor then said that the Town Manager will talk to other local town managers and find out what their traffic-related costs tend to be.

After noting that enforcement is also about, for instance, temporary parking restrictions so that contractors can pave roads and dig ditches, the Mayor said: “At this point the county does not have the authority to enforce our parking regulations. Do we want the county to do it? As a community would we prefer to do something short of ticketing somebody every time they do something wrong? Would we prefer to go to people and say would you mind moving your car? This flexibility—to talk to people—we can’t do that if we go with the county.”

Summing up, the Mayor said: “The Council really doesn’t like the idea of towing our neighbors. On the other hand, sometimes you need to move a car. “

Now Dick Pratt rose to say that these changes sounded excellent and were clearly needed. “I’m aware that there’s concern among some parties that this ordinance will allow existing street closures within the town to be terminated and the streets opened up. But this should not be a concern—nothing here is intended to cover street openings.”

Hans now moved that Ordinance 2017-5 be introduced. This passed unanimously.

Margaret Soltan

Green Tip of the Month

To opt out of receiving telephone books, go to www.yellowpagesoptout.com.

You will need to create an account, but it is quick and easy. (Tip courtesy of Lillian Del-Priore, GPCAN.org.)

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by e-mail, mail, or hand to *Bugle* staff. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Manager Notes

Street sweeping. Town streets will be swept on Monday, June 26, with a rain date of Tuesday, June 27. Remember to park off the street to allow the sweepers to clean from curb to curb.

Lyme disease. A resident has reported testing positive for acute Lyme disease. The resident had a round, red rash on the back of the knee. The resident never saw a tick. This is a reminder to be alert and to watch for ticks and symptoms described in the CDC Web site: www.cdc.gov/lyme/index.html.

Sidewalk information. Sidewalk repair work around the Penn Place building will begin later in June. The cracked and damaged sections of sidewalk will be replaced. Look for status updates on the town Web site: garrettparkmd.gov.

Town Hall reservations. Reservations can now be made online through the town's Web site. By the way, the old carpet in the meeting room at the Town Hall has been replaced.

Town Office. The office will be closed for the Independence Day holiday on Tuesday, July 4.

As always: If you have questions or concerns please call the Town Office at 301-933-7488.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

Musicale Report

On a Sunday afternoon in late April, the Town Hall was filled with talented musicians, young and old, and an appreciative audience for the 21st Garrett Park Musicale. After an opening chorus by the Garrett Park Singers, this year's Ilah Gieser scholarship recipient, a 5th grade drummer, took the stage (as is traditional) to show us what our scholarship funds went for this year. The program included selections from Bach to rock, on a variety of instruments, and ended with a spirited sing-along of "This Land Is Your Land," with audience and performers joining in lustily.

Thanks to your support, we will be able to continue the scholarship program for another year!

Editor's Farewell

As announced previously, this *Bugle* will be the last under my editorship. I began editing the *Bugle* back in September 1988, when I shared the masthead with two other editors (Mary Moyer and Millie Huffman) and a designer (Linda Paine). Linda and I assembled the *Bugle* in the Town Office on the town's Macintosh computer, using PageMaker 3, the "killer app" that launched the desktop publishing revolution. That was before most of us had acquired our own computers—first on our desktops and now even in our pockets.

So things have changed a lot over the years. What has not changed is that working on the *Bugle* gave me the opportunity to learn about the people and doings in town and the satisfaction of contributing to the fabric of the community. I am sure that those who are involved in the next phase of the *Bugle's* history will find the same.

The new *Bugle* regime that will debut in the next issue (which should appear in late September) is still being invented by its parent organization, the Citizens Association. Sean Conlon is spearheading the effort, so please contact him if you would like to add your name to those who have already volunteered to take part. There are many tasks, large and small, occasional and regular, that can contribute to the next-generation *Bugle*, so please, get in touch with Sean!

Barbara Collier

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Citizens Association Notes

Robert Louis Stevenson said that “Wine is bottle poetry.” If you were at this month’s Citizens Association wine tasting, you got to “read” a bit of that poetry. The wines in attendance were as varied as the people who brought them. CA officers, led by president Darshini, laid out a progression of wines, starting with some spirited whites and ending with tawny, tannin-rich reds. It was a lovely night of wine and cheese and friends. We are looking forward to holding more events like this one. If you’d like to give us some feedback, we’ve opened a survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9VR735H>

Upcoming events! Fourth of July. The Annual Garrett Park July 4th Parade and BBQ is here! The barbecue will take place at Penn Place, by the basketball courts. This year’s parade theme is “Garrett Park Celebrates Journalism.” We are looking for a wide interpretation of this year’s theme: newspapers, radio, broadcast news, meteorology, investigative journalism, photo journalism. Be creative! See this year’s poster (p 8) for more about the July 4th festivities.

Planning for rain. For the last couple of years, the CA staff was in the terrible position of having to coordinate a parade and BBQ during uncertain weather. I can tell you that it’s no fun worrying about whether the band will have a dry place to play and what you might do with hundreds of dollars of food. This year, we will make the weather call on the evening of July 2. If the weather looks bad, we will move the BBQ to the Town Hall. Please keep an eye on the listserv and check the Post Office for signs.

Save the date:

Newcomers Welcome: Sunday, September 17
Spooky Woods: Saturday, October 28

Future meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Darshini Trivedi or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2017 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. Tap into the resources of our community and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Darshini Trivedi.

Greening Report

This month’s green banner is sponsored by Anne Sundt. Many thanks!

If anyone else would like to support the Citizens Association with contributions of any kind, including dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address), please make out a check to the Citizens Association with a note in the memo line explaining what it is for, and mail it to the Citizens Association at Box 456. We’d be most grateful.



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"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"

Summer Art at Penn Place

Since the *Bugle* vacations during August and September, following is our complete summer fare at the Penn Place Gallery. Note that the gallery walls will be vacant until June 24 for cleaning and repairs.

Our July artist is Garrett Park photographer Vickie Baily. Ten years ago, Vickie moved to Garrett Park only to discover she was living beside “the best neighbor in the world.” Everyone who knows gardener Anne Atlee heartily agrees! Over the years the two women, unhindered by different generations and life experiences, opened their garden gate to inspire and influence each other profoundly. Vickie says, “My upcoming exhibit is titled ‘Two Gardens and a Gate,’ but it could be titled ‘Two Women and a Friendship.’” Vickie’s photographs will be on exhibit from June 26 through July 22.

Guests who attend Vickie’s opening at the gallery on July 9 are invited to a special reception at the shared gardens of Vickie and Anne, located behind 4702 Waverly Avenue, a short stroll from the gallery. Both the gallery and gardens will be open from 3 to 5 pm. If it is raining that day, the reception will be held in the gallery, as usual. (By the way, July 10 is Anne’s 93rd birthday, and it would be lovely if her friends brought special birthday cards to the reception!)

From July 23 to August 19, we welcome artist Nancy Altemus to Penn Place Gallery. As Nancy is the Best-in-Show winner of our 2016 Invitational Show, we have been anxiously awaiting her solo show at the gallery. After attending BCC High School, Nancy studied art in Florence, Italy, as well as at the University of Virginia, George Washington University, and the Corcoran School of Art. Her favorite subject to paint is reflections, particularly natural light and bold color on sparkling water, and her paintings are often inspired by the children she teaches at Mater Dei School and the Club House Backyard Studio. Please join us for Nancy’s Meet-the-Artist reception on July 23, from 3 to 5 pm, and be sure to stop by the gallery to see her exhibit.

On August 21, Garrett Park artist Lucila San Jose will exhibit her art at the gallery. Lucila has previously exhibited her nature photographs and is now working on a series of enchanting Madonna paintings. Lucila enjoyed a magi-

cal childhood in Puerto Rico and was inspired to paint by her artistic family. Her grandfather played the accordion and wrote poetry about flowers and nature, and Lucila spent evenings with her grandparents, under star-filled skies, learning to appreciate all living things. Lucila’s aunt was a potter and sculptor. Her parents also loved art, teaching her the importance of devoting time to laughing, creating, and honoring beauty within. Following her family tradition, Lucila explains that her work reflects the unexpected gifts in her life and the happiness in her soul. We are looking forward to her exhibit, which will run from August 21 to September 16.

The gallery welcomes the opening of Series 13 with a Group Show of participating artists, on exhibit for 2 weeks from September 17 to 30. We are excited to present this very diverse group of artists, and hope you will join us on September 17 for a gala reception, catered by Black Market Bistro!

Graduates

This year’s graduates list is a short one: no high school students (or their parents) provided any graduate information. However, we heard about some stellar college grads! Congratulations to all graduates (whether you are mentioned here or not).

- Jesse Cole is graduating with a B.S. degree, with honors, in integrative neuroscience from Binghamton University in New York. He starts medical school at the University of Buffalo this August.
- Lucy Murnane is graduating with a B.S. degree, high honors, Phi Beta Kappa, from the Department of Molecular Environmental Biology at the University of California, Berkeley. She is teaching science in New Orleans for the next two years with Teach for America, and then is planning on attending medical school.
- Billy Petito earned a B.Mus. from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester with a double major in music education and jazz guitar performance, as well as a minor in audio music engineering. After student-teaching in the fall, Billy will stay in Rochester where he works as a performer, composer, arranger, and music producer. Billy hopes to continue to teach both in the Rochester school system and in community music programs, while also pursuing a career in music performance, composition, and production.
- Lucia Petito received her Ph.D. in biostatistics from the University of California, Berkeley. She earned the Chin Long Chiang Biostatistics Student of the Year Award for her innovative research in survival analysis and her many contributions to the Graduate Group in Biostatistics; she is starting a post-doctoral research fellowship at Harvard University in July.

From the Garrett Park Archives

If you had been driving along Strathmore in mid-June 1922, you could have caught sight of a brigade of the East Coast Marine Expeditionary Forces after they spent the night on the Corby’s cornfield. They were on their way to reenact Pickett’s charge at Gettysburg. The Brigade came with all manner of equipment, including a squadron of small planes that landed on a strip behind 11210 Kenilworth Avenue.

Marian Green

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Proud father John Smith of Montrose informs us that daughter Lily (a sophomore at Walter Johnson High School) was named First Team All Met in Girls' Gymnastics by the *Washington Post*: Lily "placed third in the all-around at the Montgomery County meet (35.55) and led the Wildcats to a second-place finish despite battling a shoulder injury." Besides being on the WJ gymnastics team, Lily also competes year-round with her club team, which is Hill's Gymnastics of Gaithersburg. Congratulations to Lily (and her dad)!
- ♪ Garrett Park resident Nan Gootenberg won a Gold Medal in Bocce, representing Montgomery County at the Maryland State Special Olympics held at Towson State on June 10. Congratulations to Nan!
- ♪ Congratulations to Chris and Sue Petito, who are celebrating several family milestones this spring: two graduations and a wedding! Two of their children earned degrees: son Billy a B.Mus., and daughter Lucia a Ph.D. (see graduates list, p 5). Then on June 3, Lucia married Mark Levin, a fellow-student at both the University of Rochester and UC Berkeley. Mark also earned a Ph.D. (in organic chemistry).
- ♪ They've just moved to Boston, and after a honeymoon in Portugal, they will both begin post-doctoral research fellowships at Harvard.
- ♪ Besides their educational endeavors, Billy and Lucia have kept themselves busy as musicians. In addition to performing regularly on several instruments, Billy created and recorded guitar tracks for a number of commercials, and composed music and provided sound design for commercials, video games, short films, and animations. For this work, he received several awards, including the Rochester Institute of Technology's Honors Show Award and Faculty Award. For her part, besides finishing a Ph.D. (and planning a wedding and cross-country move), Lucia served as Concertmaster of the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra for three years, regularly playing chamber music in the East Bay Area.
- ♪ Be sure to visit Brookside Gardens sometime before July 21 so that you can catch the annual exhibit of botanical art, Botanica 2017. You will find four paintings by Garrett Parker Jonathan Paul (husband of outgoing *Bugle* editor Barbara Collier).

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettparkmd.gov

Summer Jobs List

If you are not on this list and would like to be, please call Elizabeth Henley to add your name to the ongoing Town Office list: 301-933-7488.

Please see the list in the printed *Bugle*. It is the *Bugle's* policy not to include names of minor children, private telephone numbers, or private e-mail addresses in the e-*Bugle*.

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Letter from the Mayor

The town is proposing to make changes to the charter and ordinances on two topics. The first is the enhancement of our traffic and parking regulation and enforcement provisions to make them more flexible and responsive to town needs and to allow effective enforcement. The second is to modify our election laws to update them to our current actions, to encourage voting by residents by making the registration and absentee ballots easier and more accessible, to clarify the role of election judges to avoid conflicts of interest, and to correct internal conflicts within the existing ordinances. Some residents are claiming that there has not been adequate public notice of these proposed actions.

I have in many venues publicly discussed these issues many times. In my Mayor's letter in the February *Bugle* (published in January) I listed many of the major initiatives we are undertaking. That list included the following:

"Revamp traffic and parking ordinances. Our ordinances are a clumsy way to handle traffic management and to define signage. They are also in many cases impossible to enforce. We are preparing a set of new legislative proposals to streamline and improve the flexibility of traffic management and to enhance enforcement capability.

"Elections ordinances update. Our elections ordinances do not reflect current practices, are contradictory in some places, and need modifications to encourage voter participation. We are developing proposed modifications for discussion."

Then in my Mayor's letter in the June *Bugle* (published in May), I wrote as follows:

"We have two areas in which our Charter, Ordinances, and practices differ, and in which the legislation is sometimes inconsistent or directly contradictory from one section to the next. There are some broader philosophical issues that need to be tackled, also. The two areas are (1) our electoral process and (2) the way we legislate, regulate, and enforce traffic and parking rules. I have written about both subjects previously in the *Bugle* (June 2016, July 2016, December 2016, and February 2017). We hope in the June Town Council meeting to introduce ordinances and act on resolutions that will enhance our approach to these activities.

"In the election changes we will propose strengthening the concept that the Election Judges are the policy and decision makers for the process, that they must assure the integrity of the voting process and that the election is fair, honest, and an accurate representation of the votes cast. In the interests of encouraging all to vote, we will propose registration and the availability of absentee ballots up to and including the day of the election. Some language that discriminates against noncitizen residents will be proposed for elimination. We will suggest ways to support the ability for qualified voters to be poll watchers. We will propose lifting some of the time constraints on the counting process, will introduce the concept of announcing preliminary results, and allow more flexibility in the time for

swearing in the winners. This will require both Charter and Ordinance modifications.

"Establishing traffic control and parking restrictions has been clumsy and the restrictions are essentially impossible to enforce. This has resulted in much resident frustration and complaints to the town. We will try to introduce more flexibility and efficiency while assuring adequate notice, review, and control of the process. We will propose to delegate many traffic control decisions to the Town Manager, subject to prior public notice and Council review. In emergencies, temporary controls could be put in place without the notice and review.

"The Town Manager would have the ability to establish fines, also subject to public notice and Council review, and could in some cases have cars towed if they violate restrictions. The Town Manager and his designees would have the authority to enforce the regulations by issuing citations.

"As soon as the proposals are in a form for review before the next Council meeting, we will post them on the town Web site and send out notification of their availability for perusal."

We posted notification of the draft agenda for the June 12 meeting on June 2 in the Post Office, on the Web, and through a Garrett Park Mailing List distribution. On June 9 the final agenda was posted along with the proposed charter and ordinance resolutions. You can see those proposals on the town Web site at

www.garrettparkmd.gov/home/showdocument?id=653,

the existing Town Charter at

www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/records-and-documents/town-charter,

and existing ordinances at

www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/records-and-documents/code-of-ordinances.

Some residents are stating that the Council did not act on these items because they were poorly written and unclear. You can evaluate that statement by going to the links above. The Council did introduce the traffic and parking ordinance changes at the meeting for a vote in July (as required by the Charter) and because of the length of the discussions, decided to continue discussions at the scheduled work session at Town Hall at 9 am Saturday, June 24. Notice of that work session has also been posted and distributed. The final vote on the traffic and parking ordinance is scheduled for the July 10 Council meeting, at which time votes on the charter change and introduction of the ordinances on the election modifications are scheduled.

We welcome your participation at any or all of those meetings, or by contacting any Councilmember personally or all of them simultaneously at mayorandcouncil@garrettparkmd.gov.

Peter Benjamin



theme "Garrett Park Celebrates Journalism"

7:30 am Fun Run registration - All ages
Penn Place Parking lot

8:00 am 2 mile Fun Run / Walk - Penn Place

9:45 am Parade forms. Garrett Park Elem.

10:30 am Parade begins

1:00 pm Pool Events

3:00 pm 18th Annual Softball Game

(This tradition is in jeopardy - you can save it!!!) G.P. Elementary

Music by Garrett Park's own Border State

Penn Place - after the parade

(IF RAINING - AFTER PARADE EVENTS WILL BE IN TOWN HALL)